Dr. A. G. Menon.—I am glad to hear the assurance held out by the Diwan.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It is one of the easiest things also.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—It must be carried out.

Plague Report.

164. Mr. C.J. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer has submitted any report with regard to the out-break of plague in Mattancheri and Ernakulam; and if so, will they be pleased to place the same on the Table;

(2) will the Government kindly state whether they are taking any steps now to prevent altogether the breaking out of plague in these places in future ; if so, what steps ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(1) Yes. The report is placed on the Council Table.

(2) Strict vigilance is maintained regarding undue rat mortality in both the towns and dead rats are being examined from time to time. No other special measures are practicable except general sanitary improvement which is being done.

Lapse of budget allotments for new roads in the State.

165. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government kindly state:—

(a) whether any amount or portion of amount sanctioned during the last three years for opening new roads in the different parts of the State has been allowed to lapse ; and

(b) if so, the action taken by them against the officers who were responsible for so allowing the amount to lapse in each case;

(c) whether any amount or portion of amount sanctioned to construct a new road to Melur from Chalakkudi has been allowed to lapse ; and if so, what were the reasons for allowing such lapse and whether its construction will suffer because of this lapse, if any ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) No action was taken against any officer.

(c) The estimate for the road is under preparation. In the meanwhile steps are being taken to acquire the required lands. The work is proposed to be taken up as soon as the lands are acquired.

Mr. C.J. Mathew.—May I know from the allotments made for the construction of new roads, how many cases of lapses have been noticed this year ?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In some cases we were not able to spend the whole money allotted.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—In how many cases?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—About 3 or 4 cases.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—What were the reasons?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The alignment was not fixed when the budget was prepared. To fix the alignment land acquisition proceedings are going on.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I want to know whether the question of land acquisition is the only cause of delay or the only important cause of delay?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In many cases, the delay is for fixing of the alignment of the new road projects, and land acquisition also takes a long time. All these contributed to the lapses of allotments.

Memorial from the inhabitants of Kunnamkulam, etc., for a canal and a Munsiff's Court, &c.

166. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to the printed 'Memorial' submitted to the Diwan of Cochin by the inhabitants of Kunnamkulam, Guruvayur and neighbouring places:—

(a) whether any of the requests contained therein has been sanctioned by the Government;

(b) and if not, is any of the requests still under the consideration of the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) No.

(b) The requests for the opening of a canal communication from the Connoolly canal to Vettikadavu and the establishment of a Munsiff's Court at Kunnamkulam are under the consideration of the Government.

167. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Government are now considering the question of opening a canal communication from Connooly canal to Vettikadavu;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation or resolutions passed at public meetings regarding this matter; and if so,

(c) what steps are being taken by the Government in the matter?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Madras Government are being addressed in the matter.

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